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## ATTACHMENT

CIA Response to O/S&TP Questions  
on Supercomputers (DCI/ICS 83-4224)

- A. Do you currently own and operate or time share a super-computer? How many or how much usage?

We do not own or operate a supercomputer.

- B. Do you have firm plans to acquire the next generation supercomputer? What specs? When? How many? Approximate dollar funds per supercomputer?

We have no firm plans as of now.

- C. Is there a difference in your requirement between a "big number cruncher" and an even bigger and more complex AI-based machine?

Users have primarily expressed interest in the "big number cruncher" variety. However, the importance of AI is recognized and the potential of supercomputers in this area is being investigated. A complete answer to this question awaits a detailed identification of Agency requirements.

- D. Have you identified a US source or sources?

It is too early in our planning to have had other than general discussions with potential sources.

- E. What impact would a successful Japanese fifth generation and supercomputer with the approximate performance characteristics (described in the attachment) have on your agency?\*

Because of security concerns, Agency policy generally precludes the use of foreign ADP resources.

- F. Is there a role for the federal government in stimulating, partially funding, or actually developing the fifth generation supercomputer? One body of opinion asserts the US Government should only indicate the range of performance characteristics desired, the best estimate on quantity required and probable time frame for delivery with a tolerable price range.

\*Wording of Question E was modified for clarity.

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From an Agency perspective, the existence of a domestic source for supercomputers is critical to any future Agency use of supercomputers. Unless we are content in leaving this up to market forces only, we must support a role for the Federal Government in encouraging domestic supercomputer development. Developing an Agency position on the nature of this role would require considerably more time than was available for the preparation of this response.

- G. Do you have an opinion on the probable success or range of performance the Japanese are likely to achieve? Basis for opinion?

The Office of Global Issues, DDI has prepared the attached response to this question.

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